

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, January 31, 2019
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman (arrived 7:36 p.m.)
Eugene Marchand, Vice Chairman
Mary Kortmann
Peter Larson
Frank Infante
Kelly Sobol (arrived 7:33 p.m.)

Board Members Absent:

William Oros, Secretary

Also Present: Ryan Hayes, Student Board of Education Representative

Administrators Present:

Dr. David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Carroll, Director of Finance and Operations

Audience Members Present: CGS Grade 2 Teachers Angela Puccia and Nancy Gwozdz; Stacey Fortin, Challenge and Enrichment Teacher; Laura Boates, Challenge and Enrichment Teacher; Christina Hanks, CNH Psychologist; Debby Page, CNH Foreign Language Teacher; several students and parents; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Ronda Carrie, CGS Principal; Beth Giller, Director of PSSS; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; and Joseph Blake, CHS Principal.

I. Call to Order

E. Marchand called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

Ryan Miller, CNH student, led the Salute to the Flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

IV. Report of Superintendent

Dr. Petrone talked about events happening around the district, region, and state.

(K. Sobol arrived 7:33 p.m.)

(J. Beausoleil arrived 7:36 p.m.)

Dr. Petrone informed the Board and public about an upcoming parent seminar on current drug trends including vaping. This seminar will be held on March 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the complex in the Library Media Center. All parents are welcome to attend.

IV.A. Information: Student Board of Education Representative Report

R. Hayes reviewed items taking place at the high school, including athletics.

IV.B. Information: CGS Project Lead the Way Program Presentation with CGS Grade 2 Teachers Angela Puccia and Nancy Gwozdz, and Stacey Fortin, Challenge and Enrichment Teacher

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. Carrie who talked about the Project Lead the Way program and specifically the Grids and Games Module. Ms. Carrie introduced Ms. Fortin, who had second grade students Ryder Hawkins, Kylie Marcotte, Oksana Mroczek, Brayden Croutch and Logan Sharp with her to share the programming projects they worked on with this module.

J. Beausoleil said how exciting it is to see the different steps in play.

She said this program shows a great transformation in the Challenge and Enrichment program at the K-2 level.

IV.C. Information: CNH Student-Led Conference Digital Portfolio Presentation with Dena DeJulius, Laura Boates, CEP Teacher and Christina Hanks, CNH Psychologist

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. DeJulius to share an update on how the portfolio portion of the student led conferences are going. Ms. DeJulius had 6th grader Aviana Gillette with her who shared items from her digital portfolio. Ms. DeJulius next introduced 8th grader Ryan Miller who shared items from his portfolio.

The Board thanked everyone for their presentation.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

M. Kortmann asked that the trip to China be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion purposes.

V.A. Accept Resignation of Philip Pelzer, Custodian

V.B. Approve the CNH April 2019 Field Experience to Mansfield, MA

V.C. Approve the CHS April 2019 Field Experience to New York, NY

V.D. Approve the CNH June 2019 Field Experience to Amherst, MA

MOTION: Approve the remaining items on consent agenda

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: P. Larson

Result: Motion passes unanimously

V.E. Approve the CNH April 2020 Field Experience to China

MOTION: To approve the CNH April 2020 Field Experience to China

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Marchand

Discussion: J. Beausoleil noted that there are three extra days added to this trip so the group can visit the teacher that taught here in Coventry in 16-17. Dr. Petrone and Ms. Page explained the order of the destinations on the trip. Ms. Beausoleil said this will strengthen our ongoing international relationship. E. Marchand said this will be a life changing experience for our students.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil noted the recent visit of our Chinese guests. She added that the Board is still in the budget development process. She also noted the appreciation that is felt when the schools open early rather than delay.

She provided an update on Town Council steering committee meeting she attended, which included discussions about the policy they are working on for naming buildings and facilities. She said they used the Board's policy as a reference.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of January 10, 2019

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the meeting of January 10, 2019

By: P. Larson

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. Old Business

IX.A. VOTE: Approve Revisions to Policy 5118 Non-Resident Students

MOTION: Approve revisions to Policy 5118 - Non-Resident Students

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX.B. Discussion and Possible VOTE: FY20 Budget

Mr. Carroll distributed the corrected budget sheets for the Board. He said the Second Step program language was moved from grade one to grade two as discussed at the last meeting.

Mr. Carroll said the budget remains at a 1.25% increase overall.

J. Beausoleil asked if there was any further information related to fluid figures such as special education placements or state budget discussions. Dr. Petrone said not at this time. The Board talked about items that are being discussed about at the state legislative level.

J. Beausoleil said her preference was for the Board to wait to vote, just in case any further information comes in.

X. New Business

X.A. Information and VOTE: Approve the 2019-2020 Coventry Public Schools Calendar

J. Beausoleil noted the draft calendar is available for review and approval.

J. Beausoleil said the calendar is not as choppy as in previous years.

E. Marchand said he liked the line up for the Open Houses.

Dr. Petrone talked about the Staff Development Days and also Veterans Day. He mentioned the proposed legislation that would allow Boards to set a graduation date.

E. Marchand asked what the input was from the PTO about the calendar. Dr. Petrone said the overall comments were positive. J. Beausoleil said there was appreciation noted from working families, who appreciate that there is not as much choppiness in the calendar. K. Sobol reiterated that as well.

J. Beausoleil said the current 2020 graduation date is set for June 13. She said if the legislation does allow Board's to vote and set a graduation date that would be beneficial to families.

The Board talked about the comments that parents have made recently about changing the graduation day to a weeknight rather than the traditional Saturday.

Mr. Hayes said the tradition has been to hold it on a Saturday and he did not think it would affect the safety of students. Mr. Hayes said his personal preference is a Saturday, but that's because that is what he is used to.

M. Kortmann talked about Project Graduation and how it would be difficult for that event to change the date, if graduation is held on a week night after the last day of school.

K. Sobol asked if there was any discussion about developing a plan to be sure there are not conflicting events at multiple schools on the same evening. Dr. Petrone said folks are supposed to check the other schools' calendars before scheduling.

MOTION: Approve the 2019-2020 Coventry Public Schools Calendar

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

X.B. Information and Discussion: Policies up for Adoption (to be warned for a VOTE at a future Board meeting)

J. Beausoleil said this is the first warning/reading these policies.

X.B.1. 5127 - Graduation Requirements

J. Beausoleil introduced Mr. Blake who was present to review the updates to the Graduation Requirements based on the most recent laws. Mr. Blake shared a presentation on the new policy. He said the state law has increased the credits from 22 to 25 required. He noted that Coventry already has a requirement of 25 credits. He did say that this mandate will assist CHS when students transfer in from a district that currently has less credits required.

Mr. Blake went on to review the different credit requirements in different subjects and areas of focus.

M. Kortmann asked about what is being proposed to be taught in the health classes. Dr. Petrone said there is some legislation out there about the curriculum needs for this area. Mr. Blake said the curriculum will be built on need. Some topics noted were vaping, the opium crisis, mental health, and healthy eating.

The Board discussed the math requirements and possibly adding in computer science courses as math.

The Board agreed the policy could go forward as is.

X.B.2. 1250 - Visitors and Observations in Schools

E. Marchand said this doesn't do anything differently, but gives the administration the authorization to limit visitations and observations as needed. J. Beausoleil liked the security aspects to the policy. Board members agreed.

X.B.3. 3120.1 - Board Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers - Preschool

There were no changes requested for this policy.

